

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 CU-04 NIC-01 /071 W
----- 005230

R 061335Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5964

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS GABORONE 1518

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, PFOR, BC, RH

SUBJ: GOB DEMAND FOR RETURN OF DUBE

REFS: A) GABORONE 1436, B) GABORONE 1448 (NOTAL)

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT ON THE SUBJECT OF THE ABDUCTION OF MR. ETHAN DUBE FROM BOTSWANA.

2. QUOTE ON OCTOBER 17, THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT ISSUED A STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ZAPU OFFICIAL, MR. ETHAN DUBE, HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED TO RHODESIA BY AGENTS OF THE SMITH REGIME. THE STATEMENT ALSO DEMANDED THAT THE RHODESIAN REGIME SHOULD ENSURE THE IMMEDIATE RETURN OF MR. DUBE TO BOTSWANA.

3. THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT STATEMENT WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE RHODESIAN REGIME BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. THE ILLEGAL REGIME HAS NOW REACTED TO THE STATEMENT BY ARGUING THAT THERE IS INSUFFI-
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CIENT EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT MR. DUBE WAS KIDNAPPED TO

RHODESIA. THE REGIME ALSO SUGGESTS THAT MR. DUBE COULD WELL BE A VICTIM OF THE RIVALRY BETWEEN THE RHODESIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

4. FOR ITS PART, THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT WISHES TO STATE, ONCE AGAIN, THAT THERE IS ABUNDANT EVIDENCE THAT MR. DUBE WAS TAKEN TO RHODESIA BY HIS KIDNAPPERS. THE GOVERNMENT ALSO REJECTS AS NAIVE AND FAR-FETCHED THE SUGGESTION THAT MR. DUBE MAY HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED BY A RIVAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT. FOR IT IS RIDICULOUS TO SUGGEST THAT ANY LIBERATION MOVEMENT WOULD WAIT FOR MR. DUBE TO VISIT BOTSWANA TO KIDNAP HIM. IT IS EVEN MORE RIDICULOUS TO SUGGEST THAT HAVING KIDNAPPED MR. DUBE, ANY LIBERATION MOVEMENT WOULD TAKE HIM TO RHODESIA.

5. THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT REMAINS CONVINCED THAT MR. ETHAN DUBE WAS KIDNAPPED TO RHODESIA BY RHODESIAN AGENTS. THE GOVERNMENT, THEREFORE REITERATES ITS DEMAND THAT MR. DUBE BE RETURNED TO BOTSWAN FORTHWITH. UNQUOTE.
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